

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17870

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: DANGER OF SELECTIVE UK ACTIONS TO RESTRICT
IMPORTS

REF: OECD PARIS 30241

1. WE THINK WASS HAS ACCURATELY REFLECTED SITUATION
IN UK AND AGREE THAT THERE IS SERIOUS PERIL OF IMPORT
CONTROLS IN A FEW SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN UK IN NEAR
FUTURE. WE ALSO BELIEVE UKG COULD MAKE STRONG CASE
THAT APPROPRIATE CRITERIA HAVE BEEN MET IN ONE OR MORE
INDUSTRIES, E.G. COLOUR TELEVISION TUBES.

2. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED LONDON 17852, BRITISH PRESS
HAS REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER WILSON RECEIVED TACIT
APPROVAL AT RAMBOUILLET FOR SELECTIVE CONTROLS FOR
SPECIFIC THREATENED INDUSTRIES. PRESIDENT FORD AND
OTHER PARTICIPANTS ARE SAID TO HAVE ACCEPTED LIMITED
ACTIONS IF NECESSARY. THE FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTED
TODAY THAT WILSON TOLD COMMONS IN HIS OPINION
RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT HAD CLEARED THE WAY FOR SELECTIVE
IMPORT CONTROLS SHOULD MINISTERS DECIDE THEY ARE
NECESSARY. THOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO
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ASCERTAIN ACCURACY OF THIS ACCOUNT, IT IS CLEAR BRITISH

THINK WILSON OBTAINED AT LEAST SOME DEGREE OF
ACCEPTANCE. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND SINCE BACKGROUND
COULD DETERMINE NATURE OF REPRESENTATION, WE BELIEVE IT
IS ESSENTIAL TO KNOW JUST WHAT HAPPENED AT SUMMIT,
PARTICULARLY US UNDERSTANDING OF HOW MATTER WAS LEFT.

RICHARDSON

NOTE BY OCT: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. BELL, S/S-O.

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